



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 23, 2016

DATE: February 16, 2016

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Michael Sullens, Purchasing and Contracts Manager
Comptroller's Department, 328-2281, msullens@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Kerri Heward, Director of the Forensic Science Division, 328-2803,
Kheward@washoecounty.us

Cathy Hill, Comptroller, Washoe County Comptrollers Department, 328-2563,
chill@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Award Invitation to Bid #2964-16 for UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT ANALYSIS on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Forensic Science Division to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder, **Sorenson Forensics, LLC**, 2511 S West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT for a cost of \$675.00 per kit (Y-screening method) for approximately 800 to 1500 kits, subject to available funding. The estimated value of this award is between \$540,000 up to \$1,012,500.00 [no county general funds utilized and no county match required]. The Award will be for two (2) years with the County retaining the option for a one (1) year extension. (All Commission Districts).

SUMMARY

Award Invitation to Bid #2964-16 for UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT ANALYSIS on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Forensic Science Division to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder, **Sorenson Forensics, LLC**, 2511 S West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT for a cost of \$675.00 per kit (Y-screening method) for approximately 800 to 1500 kits, subject to available funding. The estimated value of this award is between \$540,000 up to \$1,012,500.00. The Award will be for two (2) years with the County retaining the option for a one (1) year extension.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

AGENDA ITEM # 11

PREVIOUS ACTION

NA

BACKGROUND

Many jurisdictions across the country are looking at the issue of sexual assault kits that has not been submitted to a forensic science laboratory for testing. It is unknown how many un-submitted sexual assault kits (SAKs) there are nationwide. A task force has been created to address this issue in Nevada. The task force consists of representatives from Nevada's Attorney General's Office, Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic Science Laboratories, District Attorney's Offices, Legislators, Sexual Assault Response Team, Victim Advocate Groups, and Universities. Based on preliminary counts, it is estimated that between 800 to 1500 un-submitted sexual assault kits exists in northern Nevada. The goal of this task force is identify means by which all of the un-submitted sexual assault kits in Nevada are tested in the next 2-3 years. The WCSO Forensic Science Division (WCSO-FSD) is coordinating the testing of the un-submitted sexual assault kits in northern Nevada. The plan is to outsource these kits to a private laboratory so as to not adversely affect the current caseload at the WCSO-FSD. All data obtained from the testing of these kits will be reviewed by the WCSO-FSD and appropriate DNA profiles entered into the DNA database by the WCSO-FSD.

In accordance with the provisions of NRS 332.039, the Washoe County Purchasing Office solicited bids for Untested Sexual Assault Kit Analysis. The Invitation to Bid was duly advertised in the Reno Gazette-Journal and made available through the online services of www.DemandStar.com resulting in the receipt of three (3) bids. Sealed bids were opened in the Purchasing Office at 3:15 p.m., January 20, 2016.

RESPONDING BIDDERS:

Bid Item #1

Sorenson Forensics
2511 S. West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

\$875.00 per kit
\$675.00 per kit (Y Screening Alternative)

Genquest DNA Laboratory
133 Coney Island Drive
Sparks NV 89431

\$1,495.00 per kit
\$ 615.00* per kit (Y Screening Alternative)
*Additional references over (1 victim, 3 additional) would be \$150 /sample.

Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc
10430 Furnace Road, Suite 107
Lorton, VA 22079

\$1,495.00 per kit

Sorenson's price for \$675 / kit includes the testing of 5 evidentiary samples through quantitation and up to 3 after quantitation (excluding reference samples). GenQuest's Y screening bid includes the testing of 3 evidentiary samples up to quantitation and 1 after quantitation (excluding reference samples). In the bid, it states 3 samples can be forwarded to DNA if spermatozoa

is identified, otherwise 5 will be forwarded to DNA (12.1.3.5). Y screening does not include the identification of spermatozoa, therefore the expectation is that 5 samples (excluding reference samples) will be carried through quantitation. Having up to 3 samples past quantitation covered in the pricing is highly desirable as many cases will need more than 1 sample processed past quantitation. Having 3 samples past quantitation covered in the pricing will allow us to ensure that the necessary funds are available for the kits sent out for testing. GenQuest indicated in their alternate bid that additional references above the numbers listed (1 victim, 3 additional) would be \$150/sample. When added to GenQuest's bid price of \$615 per kit even at one additional sample, the cost increases to \$775 per kit. Therefore, the bid of Sorenson Labs represents the lowest, responsive, responsible bid.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Attorney General's office will be providing \$400,000 in grant funding, with no match required via an interlocal agreement for the testing of un-submitted sexual assault kits in northern Nevada. The task force is working towards securing additional funds to complete this project, and the Sheriff's Office will not exceed available funding for untested sexual assault kit analysis. Prior to the interlocal agreement being finalized by the Attorney General's office, the vendor for the sexual kit analysis needed to be selected.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board award Invitation to Bid #2964-16 for UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT ANALYSIS on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Forensic Science Division to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder, **Sorenson Forensics, LLC**, 2511 S West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT for a cost of \$675.00 per kit (Y-screening method) for approximately 800 to 1500 kits, subject to available funding. The estimated value of this award is between \$540,000 up to \$1,012,500.00. The Award will be for two (2) years with the County retaining the option for a one (1) year extension.

MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

"Move to award Invitation to Bid #2964-16 for UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT ANALYSIS on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Forensic Science Division to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder, **Sorenson Forensics, LLC**, 2511 S West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT for a cost of \$675.00 per kit (Y-screening method) for approximately 800 to 1500 kits, subject to available funding. The estimated value of this award is between \$540,000 up to \$1,012,500.00. The Award will be for two (2) years with the County retaining the option for a one (1) year extension."